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THE

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The trial of the nine men accused of piracy

and murder was continued in the Supreme Court

yesterday. The Acting Attorney General, Dr. R. Kneller, is about to leave Amoy in order to take

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## A FRENCH VIEW OF THE EASTERN QUESTION.

The current number of the *Revue de France* contains an article from the pen of the Count de Warren, entitled "La Question de Constantinople et le rôle de la France." At the present moment it is not without considerable interest, as showing the opinion which an educated Frenchman has of the policy of his country, and the sort of policy with which this country may be credited. Though such expressions as "perfidie Allobroges" and "the Modern Carthage" no longer find a place in the political vocabulary of Frenchmen, yet a good deal of the sentiment which created them survives; and when we learn from Continental newspapers that Mr. Disraeli has supplied the Tsarist Government with a "secret history" of the Balkans, we cannot help remembering some rhetorical flourishes about "the gold of Pitt," which were very soothing to Galli's ears.

De Warren has the merit of speaking out his thoughts plainly. Russia, he observes, desires the dismemberment of the Turkish Empire. England does not wish it. As far as France is concerned, therefore, the most likely thing is that "What will be the action of the other Powers?" Germany would like the establishment of a "Bohemian-Hungarian principality similar to that of Rumania, with (M. de Warren hints) Prince Frederic Charles for its ruler." But the general policy of Germany will be decided by watching France. France, which has put up a quantity of "milliards" (so no longer speak of millions) of these days, and, among the remainder of Europe, with perhaps France, Austria, and Burgundy into the bargain, as for Austria she has no ambition but to exist. A series of different races tending to separation rather than to closer union, she only asks for peace to consolidate her federation.

England, she observes, is divided. She has not been tempted by no offer of additional provinces which would only give her more trouble than nationalities to assimilate. Italy—"that bird of prey of the second order"—has its eyes fixed alternately on Nice and Dalmatia; willingly would she join the side which promised to give her either. But Mr. Disraeli has said, "Nothing is to be done but to wait." According to this, England has made up her mind that England would unmake her. Genoa, Naples, Venice, Brindisi, half the great cities of Italy would be liable to bombardment. A severe blockade might be enforced, and would ruin Italian trade. Austria, Germany, and Italy remaining neutral, it is necessary to consider the part to be played by France. According to this, France would be compelled to blockade Italy if she took part against Russia. Russia saved her in the summer of 1873, when Prussia was about to declare war with a view of easily crushing her; but it was our own vanity which made us conceive that our own Government rendered some service to France during the crisis of 1870, and we even failed to perceive that England, France, and Italy had all the means of the past from the time of M. Jules Loubet. However that may be, M. de Warren considers that it would not only be wrong but foolish on the part of France to take part against Russia; for in that case Germany would instantly conclude an alliance with the Czar and march her armies once more in the direction of Paris. She would then be in a position to direct the part of Russia against England. Germany would unite her forces to ours, and an invasion of France would again be the result. There can be no doubt, thinks the French reviewer, as to the issue of a conflict between Great Britain and Germany, on the one side and France and Russia on the other. Victory would certainly remain with the former; and the old dream of a Prussian invasion would then be realized, but in a direction opposite to that of the British provinces.

France, too, would "certainly" lose Algeria. "Pitiless in her rage, England would sacrifice all the Mussulman populations of the north of Africa to the Djedid, to a holy war; the Arab tribes, even now but half subject to our rule, would join them in exterminating our colonists."

The review ends with a short forecast of the future. "England will renew the miracles of 1859, and, in the direction of India, will be successful in her efforts to extend her dominions of her colonies."

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